(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure fair allotment of these coin boxes of PCO lines in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) No irregularity in allotment of coin boxes has been noticed in Karnataka.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Media Lab Asia

3574. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the activities of the Media Lab Asia;

(b) the details of the corporates and others, sponsoring the Media Lab Asia; and

(c) Government's funding in the Media Lab Asia during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) Media Lab Asia is a network of R&D laboratories to conduct research in the following areas :—

— Development of low-cost computing devices.

— Providing rural connectivity.

— Development of low-cost instrumentation and fabrication facilities.

— Integration of these concepts into a digital village framework.

(b) M/s. Tata Sons through Tata Consultancy Services have agreed to be the corporate sponsor for the Media Lab Asia.

(c) Media Lab Asia project was initiated in the year 2001-02 and the funds released by Government of India during that year was Rs. 65 crores.